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OUR MILLICENT FAWCETT HOSPITALS

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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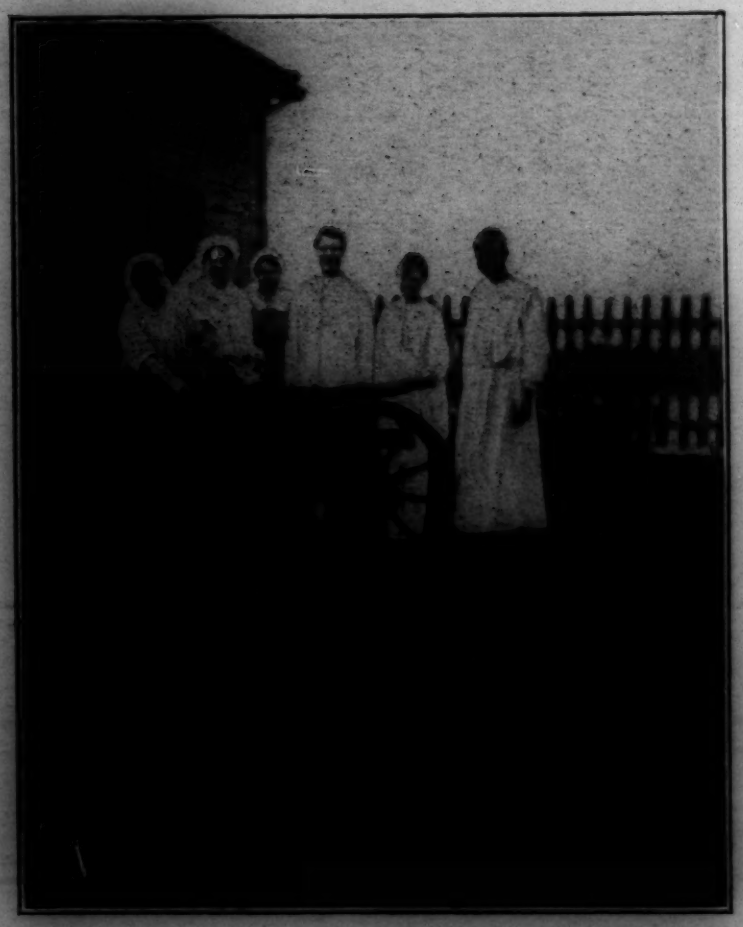

The Hospital at Stara Chelnoe in Middle Russia. Photographed by Dr. Alice Benham (a member of the London Suffrage Society), who gave her services to the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for three months.

Notes and News.

Our Friends the Anti-Suffragists Again!

The Anti-Suffragists have a happy knack of helping us. A secretary of a local society writes to tell us that a member had lately sent in his resignation, thinking, perhaps, that there was no need any longer to preach to a converted country the wholesome doctrine of Women's Suffrage. Now, however, he has written again to enclose his subscription, adding, "The letter in the press from our opponents this morning has helped me to remain a member!"

A Tribute to Women Doctors.

At the meeting of the General Medical Council on November 28th, Sir Donald MacAlister gave high praise to the admirable services rendered by women doctors, both at home and abroad. They had, he said, abundantly justified their admission to the register, and it was plain that they would take an increasing share in professional life and work. The large augmentation in the number of women students preparing for medical qualification sufficiently indicated that women appreciated the opportunity for national service now open to them. Those qualified, if they could not serve with the ambulance at the front, could, and did, liberate men who were wanted there by serving at the military hospitals at the bases, both here and on the Continent. The military authorities were specially desirous to employ more of them in hospitals for the troops at home, and were willing to give them considerable freedom of choice with respect to the command to which they were attached. He commended the appeal to all women practitioners physically fit for such duty, and he felt certain that they would gallantly respond.

Women's Progress in Medical Research.

The annual report of the Medical Research Committee shows that since the war over a score of women have been employed in pathological research. In the past very few women have devoted themselves to pathological work, but the depletion of pathological staffs at home caused by the claims of the Services, has caused the Committee to give encouragement and assistance to the rapid training of women as pathological assistants. Many women who have already studied some branch of biology, have been able to fit themselves in a short time to give very efficient service in this way.

The Committee have been able to give advice or facilities with a view to training of this kind. In addition to this, they have provided grants in the past year for the whole or part-time scientific employment on their behalf of more than twenty women. Some of these are giving only skilled routine assistance; other are engaged in definite research work. Before the war only three women were taking a part in the schemes of research organised by the Committee.

Women have also been taking part in Medical Research work in other directions. Miss W. C. Cullis and Mrs. Tribe have carried out, at the Endell Street Military Hospital, clinical observations on gunshot wounds in the chest, carrying on the work begun by Professor T. G. Brody (who has since died),

and Professor J. J. Mackensie—both captains in the Canadian Army Medical Corps—and they have undertaken gas analysis of breathing samples. Dr. Helen Chambers, the pathologist at the Endell Street Hospital, has also undertaken a special study of the bacteriology of infected wounds, and has published, with Dr. Garrett Anderson, the results of the use of salicylic acid as an antiseptic in wounds.

Among other branches of medical research work undertaken by women is the investigation carried out by Miss May Smith and Miss Bickersteth, of Oxford, into the relation of output to fatigue among girls engaged in sorting operations.

For the Civil Service.

A Committee has been appointed by the Lords of the Treasury to consider and report upon the existing scheme of examination for Class I. of the Home Civil Service, and to submit a scheme for selecting the best type of officer required for that class of Civil Service, having regard at the same time to the most advantageous course to take with regard to the higher education of the country.

We hope that other interests will also be duly weighed and taken into account. For years past the movement in favour of admitting women to the higher posts of the Civil Service has gained ground. The Royal Commission reported in favour of the admission of women, not only into the subordinate posts which are at present open to them, but to more responsible work which requires a trained intelligence and power of organising.

So long as this necessary step is not taken, we shall probably continue to suffer from the evil tradition which swaddles the young Civil Servant in red-tape and trains him not to exercise his faculties. Everything hitherto has been sacrificed to the smooth working of the official machine, and so long as that runs without a hitch, it appears to be a matter of absolute indifference to the official mind whether the machinery accomplishes its work, or, for that matter, any work at all. There is nothing in the brief preliminary paragraphs given out to the Press to lead us to believe that even now, when the whole brain-power of the nation is urgently required, the authorities are taking the recommendations of the recent Royal Commission to heart. If this is really so, it must be said that it is nothing short of scandalous to retain armies of able-bodied men at desk-work, on the pretext that women are unable to take their places.

The Pensions Bill.

After two hours and a-half discussion in Committee of the first amendment of the Pensions Bill, moved by Mr. Hogge, the House of Commons plucked up courage and insisted on a measure providing for real unification and co-ordination, and bringing in the Navy as well as the Army. The Government's Bill, though in some ways simplifying former methods, was still a compromise between rival departments, and the House showed that it is thoroughly tired of the old policy of "mess and muddle," which frequently means that the soldier is sent about from one authority to another, and sometimes does not get properly looked after in the end. His wage, service pension, and separation allowance are settled by Royal Warrant, and paid by the War Office. His civil liabilities are dealt with by a special Commission, recently appointed. If he is disabled, he usually has to look for training to one of the special hospital schools, supported mainly by voluntary effort. If totally disabled, he may find a place in one of the homes raised by private charity, such as the Star and Garter Home at Richmond. If capable of work, he must look to the local committee and Labour Exchange to find it for him. If he is discharged for sickness, he is paid a temporary pension by the War Office (in which there is often great delay) until the Chelsea Commissioners have decided, after consultation with the Army Pay Department and the Record Office, what the amount of his permanent pension shall be. Then if his pension needs to be supplemented, on account of some special circumstances, the Statutory Committee steps in, the additional pension being paid through local committees partly from public funds and partly from private subscriptions.

Mr. Hogge's scheme means :—

(1) The replacement of the Government scheme of a Board consisting of a Pensions Minister and the three Under-Secretaries for other departments by a Minister of Pensions and an Under-Secretary of Pensions. This means the disappearance of Mr. Hayes Fisher, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Foster.

(2) The powers of the unified Board would be these :—

(*a*) It would take over all the powers of the Chelsea Commissioners, including the care of the in-patients.

(*b*) It would take over the pension powers of the Admiralty.

(*c*) It would take over the pension powers of the Army Council, including the power of drawing up new Royal Warrants.

The Government, after some effort to save their Bill, capitulated, and accepted Mr. Hogge's amendments.

The failure of the Bill can in no sense be taken as a humiliation for Mr. Henderson, whose position will really be greatly strengthened under Mr. Hogge's scheme.

Women and the Next Parliamentary Register.

We give below some extracts from a letter by Mrs. Heitland to the Editor of *The Cambridge Daily News*, refuting the arguments used in the Anti-Suffrage Manifesto lately issued to the Press. After pointing out the absurdity of the argument that Parliament has "no moral right" to deal with the question of enfranchising women—though it has shouldered "the most awful responsibilities that ever rested upon a Legislature, and has freely handled the lives and destinies of millions of people," Mrs. Heitland says :—

"In the letter from the Anti-Suffragists there is a suggestion, rather foggily expressed, that women who do not want to vote should take part in the next General Election to the extent of giving directions to the next Parliament to leave them out of a Franchise Bill. Women who do wish for the vote would be presumably invited to vote for their own inclusion in such a Bill. Were this recommendation to be adopted, the next Parliament would be returned with mandates from electors and from non-electors together. In fact, for anything we are told to the contrary, it would be elected on something very like an adult Suffrage basis—a result which might commend itself to many thinkers, but hardly, I should have supposed, to persons of the political temperament of Mrs. Humphry Ward, Lady Jersey, Lord Curzon, or Dr. Massie.

"The truth is the present Parliamentary register has become useless, owing to the war. Owing to the war, also, the nation has come to realise, as it never did before, that it draws its strength from the responsible and willing service of its workers of both sexes. Whether they are 'occupiers' of premises of a certain rental, matters very little; whether they are willing to give their lives in battlefield or hospital, their labour in arsenal, factory, school, or home, matters everything.

"Accepting this new national conviction, the present Parliament will be obliged to recast and simplify the whole scheme of electoral qualifications. It will be compelled to recognise that the Government needs a strong people quite as much as the people needs a strong Government: and that the people cannot acquire this strength so long as all women are voteless. The difficulties and inequalities which would arise from the establishment of a purely military franchise are sufficiently obvious. A franchise of so arbitrary a character would bind some persons more closely to the interests of the State and leave out others, including, presumably, all women, whether they were doctors, nurses, munition makers, Government officials, or workers for the country in any other capacity.

"This notion that a State can afford to leave millions of its people outside its political system and still obtain their best service, is one that has long been abandoned by those nations and communities that have felt the need of strengthening themselves. If Great Britain is over-rich in an educated and efficient population, then it had better reduce its electorate; if it is not, let the present Parliament lose no time in giving the vote to women as well as men, so that, when the war ends, all may be ready to apply themselves to the task of revitalising the nation and enlarging the lives of its people."

A "PARLIAMENTARY SNOWBALL."

In a leading article dealing with Sir Edward Carson's resolution inviting the Government to confer "Parliamentary franchise on all sailors and soldiers who are serving, or have served, in his Majesty's forces during the present war," *The Daily Chronicle* says: "The Carson resolution will prove to be in the nature of a Parliamentary snowball. . . . Every class will find champions in the House of Commons, and the greatest class of all, which will find most advocates, because of their national service, will be women."

Proportional Representation.

I.—THE NEED FOR A NEW METHOD OF VOTING.

The Speaker's Electoral Reform Conference is charged with laying the foundations of a great Reform Bill. Franchise, registration, redistribution, methods of voting, costs of elections—big questions all—are the subjects on which this Conference has been asked to make recommendations. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE have good reason to look with confidence to a favourable issue from the discussions on the first of these—the franchise. Indeed, their attention is so concentrated on the need and prospect of victory on this question that they cannot, however willing, fully realise the significance of the others. Yet if women are to be enfranchised these other questions become immediately of the greatest moment to them; they concern the conditions under which women shall exercise their newly-acquired right. The vote, important as it is, may prove to be a great disappointment, unless there comes with it the new method of voting known as proportional representation. Catherine Helen Spence, the grand old woman of Australia, a keen Suffragist, one who had voted several times in her own country, often spoke of the disappointment she experienced. She did not undervalue the vote, but she devoted her remaining energies to securing the further reform—proportional representation.

What great purpose, then, have the advocates of proportional representation in view? It is to make the vote a reality instead of a sham; to make the franchise, as Catherine Helen Spence put it, *effective* for the purpose for which it is granted; to secure for each elector a real liberty in choosing a representative; to assure to each elector that each vote when recorded shall, as far as possible, have its legitimate and equal influence in determining the composition of Parliament.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

A brief analysis of the conditions under which we elect a national Parliament will make clear the urgent and pressing need for reform. For the purpose of ascertaining the people's will, the country is divided up into a number of constituencies, each of which elects one representative.* There are usually two, three, or more questions of high importance before the country at every general election. The citizens within any one of these small areas may hold views on these questions as far asunder as the poles; but the theory underlying the constitution of our Parliament is that one man can speak on all questions for all the citizens who happen to live within one of these areas. The one man is he who polls the largest number of votes. This brief statement is sufficient to show how crude is our system of representation. It is not only crude; it results in serious injustices, and it limits very materially the freedom of electors, of candidates, and of members of Parliament.

DISFRANCHISES MINORITIES.

Let us take the first charge, that of injustice. The immediate direct consequence of this system is that in each constituency the votes of the minority, or minorities, however large, count for nothing. The same result in representation would have been achieved if the minorities had stayed at home, or if their names had been struck off the register. Parliament is necessarily incompletely representative. But not only so; the result of a general election, instead of being a trustworthy guide to public opinion, depends very materially upon the way in which the adherents of political parties may be distributed throughout the country. If these adherents are so distributed over the country that the unrepresented minorities are of the same party in constituency after constituency, it is obvious that very considerable numbers of the electors may be without a spokesman in the House of Commons. Two or three examples will suffice to illustrate this contention. Kent, Surrey, and Sussex are represented in Parliament by thirty members. In January, 1910, the Liberal and Labour electors polled 134,677 votes, or 38 per cent. of the whole. Instead of obtaining 38 per cent. of the representation, they obtained none. They were in a minority in each of the thirty constituencies. The Unionists polled 218,956 votes, or 62 per cent. They secured all the seats. Wales also is represented by thirty members. In 1906 the Unionists, who numbered about a third of the whole, were in a minority in every constituency and failed to elect a representative.

It may be said that these two injustices counterbalance one another. But they do not. The representation both of Wales and of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex is incomplete. When a Bill, such as the Welsh Disestablishment Bill, is introduced which affects the minority in Wales it is only the representatives of this minority, chosen by themselves, that can state their case with adequate knowledge. Further, even if the two injustices cited could be regarded as counter-balancing one another, the system gives no guarantee that similar compensations will occur throughout the country. The minorities are not always completely disfranchised, and the extent to which they are unrepresented is a matter of chance. Thus, in December, 1910, the Unionists of Scotland numbered 277,183, and returned eleven members (including the university representatives); an average of 25,198 electors per member. The Ministerialists numbered 372,313, and returned sixty-one members, an average of 6,103 electors per member. Each Ministerialist vote had four times the value of a Unionist vote. But why four times? It was because the Unionists were fortunate enough to win a few constituencies. Some of these seats were won by small majorities. A further slight displacement of votes in favour of the Liberals might easily have cost the Unionists half their members. In that case each Ministerialist vote would have been worth eight times a Unionist vote.

MISREPRESENTS THE ELECTORS.

But when political opinion is unevenly distributed over a country, anything may happen at a general election. The party which is in a majority, instead of monopolising the representation, may fail to get the share to which it is rightfully entitled. How this may happen will be readily understood from a consideration of the results of the elections in Sheffield in December, 1910. The figures were :—

GENERAL ELECTION (December, 1910); SHEFFIELD.

Electoral Division.	Ministerial Votes.	Unionist Votes.	Ministerial Majority.	Unionist Majority.
Attercliffe	6,532	5,354	1,178	—
Brightside	5,766	3,902	1,864	—
Central	3,271	3,455	—	184
Ecclesall	5,849	6,039	—	190
Hallam	5,593	5,788	—	195
Totals—Votes ...	27,011	24,538	2,473	—
Seats ...	2	3	—	1

It will be seen that the Ministerialist majority in each of the Attercliffe and Brightside divisions was larger than the aggregate of the Unionist majorities in the other three divisions; yet the Unionists obtained three seats out of five. Each majority, whether large or small, wins a seat.

Nor, as already stated, is there any guarantee that the anomalies resulting in one place will be compensated by anomalies elsewhere. In the general election of 1895 there were 484 seats contested; they yielded the following result :—

GENERAL ELECTION, 1895 (Contested Seats).

Parties.	Votes.	Seats.
Unionists	1,785,372	282
Home Rulers	1,823,809	202

These figures show that in a contest extending over no less than 484 constituencies, the Unionists, who were in a minority 38,437, obtained a majority of eighty seats. This misrepresentation of the electors' verdict would not be remedied by making electoral districts equal in size. It was due to the fact that one party won its seats by large majorities, and the other by smaller majorities.

LIMITS THE ELECTOR'S FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

The second charge against the present system—that it limits the freedom of electors, of candidates, and of members of Parliament—is no less serious. In the above illustrations I have assumed that all the citizens are divided into two groups, one of which supports the policies of the Ministry, and the other supports the policies of the Opposition. This division of the country into two groups, opposed to one another on all points, is not in accordance with the facts. The system tends to produce and to maintain this artificial division. To win, a candidate must secure a majority of the votes; to do this he must obtain the support of one of the party organisations; in

*There are a few two-member constituencies.

return he accepts the programme of the party. An independent candidate, even if the importance of his policies justifies his candidature, suffers from the cry that he is splitting the party vote. An elector may approve the policies of the independent candidate, but he is afraid to vote for him lest in so doing he throws away his vote. The result is that, as a rule, only such measures as have been endorsed by one of the parties can hope for an effective hearing in Parliament. Other questions of high importance get shelved from year to year.

It is already clear that the system curtails the electors' freedom. A Liberal who is a keen Suffragist may find himself in a constituency where the local Liberal organisation has adopted an Anti-suffragist for its candidate. What is this Liberal elector to do? Theoretically he is free to nominate another candidate, but, in so doing, he may give the seat to a Unionist who will support policies to which this elector is heartily opposed. The elector is not free to use his vote in such a manner that it shall do what he desires, contribute effectively to the election of a Liberal who is in favour of the enfranchisement of women. A Unionist who is in favour of social reforms may find himself in a similar position. His local organisation may have adopted a candidate who is opposed to such reform. What is he to do? He may desire to maintain the Union, to support a Tariff, but at the same time he may be sincerely convinced that grave dangers will ensue unless some measures of social reform are proceeded with immediately. Like the Liberal Suffragist, he is not free to use his vote as he desires.

Penalises Independent Political Thought.

Nor is the candidate able, should he dissent from any party measure, to obtain an effective hearing for his views. The disability which attends such a candidature was well illustrated in the case of Sir Wm. Butler, who, in 1906, had been accepted as their candidate by the local Liberal organisation of East Leeds. He was obliged to withdraw because he could not endorse the Liberal policy in respect of denominational schools. A less conscientious candidate might have been ready to modify his views. But the difficulties of a candidate do not always come from the party organisation. A candidate struggling to obtain a majority of the votes often finds it necessary to accept demands which he would prefer to reject. Mr. Herbert Vivian, formerly member of Parliament for Birkenhead, held his seat by a comparatively small majority. Speaking at a meeting in London, he said: "It was strictly true that in many cases the candidate was compelled to consent to support something to which he was strongly opposed merely because a certain section of the electors insisted upon it." It may be retorted that the candidate need not consent. But the system favours the candidate who is willing to consent. The condition governing success is not that the candidate should obtain the support of a large number of citizens who are in agreement with his views, but that he should obtain a majority of the votes. Every candidate who endeavours to think out political problems and to express his honest convictions may be penalised. Mr. John Morley (now Lord Morley) suffered defeat at the polls at Newcastle because, rightly or wrongly, he felt constrained to reject the demand for an "Eight Hours'" law. What is true of candidates is equally true of members of Parliament. To maintain their seats they must retain the support of a majority of voters, and the Minister or member who fearlessly and conscientiously gives of his best may thereby offend some small section of the electors whose votes, not numerous in themselves, are enough to make the difference between victory and defeat.

A system based on an unjust principle produces evil results in all sorts of ways, many quite unexpected. I have touched briefly on but two of these evils. They in themselves are sufficient to justify my plea for reform. Next week I propose to show how the change from an unjust to a just principle may be made.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.).

There has been no further news of the London Units since the telegram was received announcing their safe arrival at Odessa. It has lately been reported in the Press that the Units' equipment has been lost, but this statement is rather misleading. As far as we know, the Hospitals' equipment is intact, but a motor-lorry and motor-kitchen had to be abandoned owing to the execrable conditions of the roads during the retreat, and special donations are needed to replace these, besides subscriptions to maintain current expenses.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia.

A Year's Record.

When last December the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies felt the call to help the poor refugees in Russia, and received the generous response of their members to their appeal, they had very little idea that their originally projected Maternity Hospital in Petrograd would open up much wider spheres of work in far distant parts of Russia. But so it proved, for the Maternity Hospital was not only a real haven of loving care and helpfulness to the poor refugee mothers, but, incidentally, it established such a reputation for thorough and disinterested work on the part of British women that their help, in co-operation with the Great Britain to Poland Fund, was sought by the Zemstvos in Middle Russia and in Galicia. In May the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units were sent out, and first of all a much-needed children's hospital for infectious diseases was opened at Kazan, and after varied work during the summer it is now combating diphtheria and a severe epidemic of scarlet fever, the forty beds of the hospital being filled with refugee children from two to ten years of age.

During the summer our Units took charge of two hospitals temporarily without any medical staff, in a remote part of the District of Kazan. They were in the large villages of Izgara and Petropavlovsky, and had about twenty beds each, and a large number of out-patients daily. The Units also took over a hospital of fifteen beds at Stara Chelnoe (another district without a doctor) in June, and they will carry it on until Russian medical help is available, treating not only refugees, but returned soldiers, and peasants of many nationalities and creeds, who crowd in daily from the surrounding districts. Dr. May is also conducting a larger hospital at Chulpanova, where she and her workers are kept very busy with forty in-patients, and over 120 daily out-patients; while her sister, Dr. King-Atkinson, and Dr. Hall have been running a large infectious hospital for soldiers and peasants in the far-distant region of Volhynia, sixty miles behind the firing-line in Galicia. Just recently, when their scarlet fever and other infectious cases were growing fewer, they ferreted out concealed cases of smallpox in the neighbouring villages, and at once began vaccinating soldiers and peasants, and also opened a small "barak" hospital for smallpox patients. By these prompt measures they hope to regulate and finish the epidemic in a few weeks.

Originally intended only for maternity work, the ever-varying needs of the Refugees, and the opportunities for help offered by the Zemstvos, have required varied forms of effort on the part of our Units, and the £9,000 so generously contributed during the first year of our work has been expended on the many undertakings here described. Some were avowedly temporary, until the Refugees became absorbed in the general population, but some of them are still required, and are doing such useful and important work that the National Union has promised to carry them on through the winter. Funds for the winter's work are urgently needed, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies appeals confidently to its friends and supporters for another £2,000, and asks that donations may be sent immediately to one of the Hon. Treasurers, the Countess of Selborne, or Miss Sterling, at Headquarters, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Elborough are holding a Stall on Saturday, December 2nd, 3 to 9, at the United Suffragists' Christmas Sale (The Central Hall, Westminster), and have a number of useful and attractive articles to sell, including some from Russian friends. *Please come and buy, and help* The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

A BEAUTIFUL BOOK.

First and foremost among the gift-books of this season certainly should be placed *The Soul of Russia*, edited by Miss Winifred Stephens. We are all by this time familiar with costly volumes, decorated pages, and marvels of colour-printing; but the volume issued at 10s. 6d. by Messrs. Macmillan to be sold in aid of the funds for Russian Refugees is something more than a mere Christmas gift-book. It is an attempt to give to an English audience some idea of the spirit that fills Russia, in art, literature, and social life, and of how Russia feels towards the war and her Allies. Perhaps the literature sections are the most interesting, for they not only contain a chapter by Mr. Arnold Bennett on his "Adventures in Russian

Fiction," and an article on Dostoevsky by Mr. Maurice Baring, but several contributions by Russian writers on England, and English literature seen through Russian eyes. Add to these a good handful of wonderful present-day short stories, especially translated for this volume, and several ancient folk-tales, and we have together a perfect store-house of good reading for winter nights. In the last section on Russia's problems, Dr. Milyukov discusses the neutralisation of the Dardanelles, Professor Bekhterev describes "Russia without Vodka," and Dr. Seton-Watson gives an illuminating article on "Britain and the Sclavonic World." The illustrations include a symbolical design by Bakst, bright coloured pictures like miniatures of extraordinary charm, and, perhaps most interesting of all, a reproduction of a curious painting by Roerich. Among women contributors are numbered Mlle. Czaplicka, the anthropologist, and Mme. Metchnikoff, widow of the famous man of science. Altogether, *The Soul of Russia* is a book to buy and keep. The proceeds will be handed over to the General Committee of Zemstvos, with whom the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units have been co-operating in their work for the Russian Refugees.

For a Working Woman's Bookshelf.

The pleasantest way, after all, of spending wet and dreary November nights is by the fire in one's own room, now London streets are as dark as country lanes, and the old before-Christmas occupations have been given up; and even a perverse and persevering ingenuity only discovers poor and thin substitutes for former gaieties, and the return home (much the most exciting part of the evening's entertainment) is effected at considerable risk to life and limb. No, it is pleasanter to stay at home; and with the price of a theatre-ticket one can buy a new book. For me, I know, there will be no play-going this year, and that I must look to the corner shelf for my recreation, change of thought, and amusement, so I have bought two new books—one amusing, one for the sake of a good laugh, and another book to think over at leisure on women's problems in modern life. Even in these days there are good shilling'sworths to be had for a working woman's bookshelf, and one is *Law and the Woman*, by Judge Parry.* Nobody would imagine that women's position before the law is a laughing matter, but Judge Parry sees the humorous side of ugly legal anomalies, and turns the laugh against oppression and pedantry.

"There is a lot of legal machinery that is merely waiting for a friendly shove to topple on to its last resting-place on the scrap heap," writes Judge Parry. "Much of this law is connected with woman, and it is only chivalrous and respectful to help to clear it out of her path. . . . When the man in the street understands a little better how the law stands in relation to woman, and what are the battles of reform that are already half won, he will be able to help woman to fight these to a finish, and in this way leave the world a little better than he found it."

In early times, Judge Parry points out, woman was regarded as man's chattel, the mediæval view of her status being set down by Milton in his story of Adam and Eve:—

> "My author and disposer, what thou bidd'st
> Unargued I obey. So God ordains,
> God is thy law, thou mine: to know no more
> Is woman's happiest knowledge, and her praise."

"As long as woman herself was satisfied with the divine origin of a law which gave her many duties but no rights, all was well. Of late years, however, even the deafest and most ancient of our publicists must have heard rumours that woman was not at peace with the early Adamic theory of her legal and social position." . . .

Fortunately, this position is in some ways much better in actual practice than in law. "In many ways law may still regard woman as an emancipated chattel, but man has long since ceased to hold that view."

We fear Judge Parry is a little too optimistic in this view, but there is no doubt that public opinion has taken immense strides forward of late years, and that the law is gradually coming into line. There are, however, many reforms that need to be accomplished before women's legal status can be regarded as satisfactory. Judge Parry holds that the economic position of the wife needs improvement, and that she ought as of right to have a certain allowance of her own, payable to her weekly, out of her husband's wages. The divorce law needs amending in the interests of women and of the poorer classes, and the mother's rights need to be more firmly established.

With regard to woman as a worker, Judge Parry advocates a fair field and no favour. Where she has been allowed to compete with man on equal terms she has done well, "but she has not driven man into the workhouse." "I do not understand," he continues, "those who fear that if the law withdraws its veto from woman's right to work there will be a revolution. There will be a small enrichment of service in the older professions, but the world will roll on in much the same old way."

In a chapter on woman as a wrongdoer, Judge Parry points out that the law is unfair to the husband in making him liable to pay damages for his wife's wrong-doing. He considers that more use should be made of women officials in the administration of the law, and advocates women magistrates as well as women police. Several practical suggestions are made for improving the law with regard to the protection of women, and in his final chapter on woman as a citizen, Judge Parry upholds Women's Suffrage, his main reason being "the selfish and sensible one that it is good business to make use of every human power for improvement that the State possesses."

Miss Hutchins' *Conflicting Ideals of Woman's Work*, reprinted in a new shilling edition, is a real find for the educated working woman who wants some stimulating reading.

The case of the home-keeping woman's career versus the career of the self-dependent worker is contrasted and considered in various aspects, and Miss Hutchins considers that the final word has not yet been said. As a matter of fact, it will not be said until women have the Suffrage and have learned how to use it. The home, as we at present know it, has ceased to exist as a centre of productive and industrial life. "The old occupations that sharpened the wits and occupied the energy of mediæval women have left the home for good and all." Remains—the nursery, which some eugenic experts claim is the whole and sole province of woman. To this it may be replied that even the nursery is now invaded by the legislator, wise or otherwise, and the first years of childhood and infancy are likely to be beset with Acts of Parliament in which mothers have no voice or choice. The mother herself, too, as Miss Hutchins says, suffers from an environment exclusively domestic; the wider public and political interests and vital contacts with life outside the home are necessary even for the sake of the children she is training as citizens.

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"A Wasted Force."

A Letter by George Meredith.

In the archives of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, there are treasured records—letters and utterances by the great men and women who have supported the cause of women's enfranchisement, and looked forward to the coming day of full and free service given by women to the nation. Some student, no doubt, will some day find all the material for a chapter of history in the collections of red cases, and compile the long roll of "Friends of Women Suffrage," with the tale of help they gave when it was needed most. To-day, when we are making history rather than writing it, we can still count over the names of our Friends and hold them in grateful remembrance.

So, from our archives, I have leave to transcribe one letter written twelve years ago by George Meredith to a Woman Suffragist—it is so true and so full of thought that it seems as striking and fresh as if it had been written yesterday. The letter, indeed, has a ring of prophecy. It means so much the more, by all the weight of experience gathered since :—

Coombe Lea, Dorking.
May 18th, 1904.

Dear Madam,—At this present time women need encouragement to look out upon affairs of national interest, and men should do their part in helping them to state publicly what has long been confined to the domestic circle; consequently, a wasted force. That it can be a force, men are beginning to feel. That the exercise of it is an education for them, we see already in the enlargement of their views of life and the country's needs. So there is hope that the coming generation will have more intelligent Mothers. This holds true whatever side in politics they may take, and it is the main point. We who believe in Liberalism do not doubt that as their intellect expands and sharpens, they will join with the party of progress; which, without rejecting such wisdom as was gained by our forefathers, aims at a condition of things in harmony with the wider and deeper knowledge we have won, the nobler ambitions, and the more humane in the welfare of our fellows.

Accept my assurance that my wishes are heartily in accord with the movement you are about to make. By studying public matters diligently, you will soon learn to perceive that there is no natural hostility between the sexes. Their interests are one when they have learned to step forward together. It is among the lessons devolving upon them to teach the male kind who are not yet enough enlightened in that direction,—Yours truly,

(Signed) George Meredith.

Correspondence.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEWIVES AND THE INCOME-TAX.

Madam,—Your correspondent, Mrs. Smyth-Pigott, shows in her letter of the 17th November how difficult it is for anyone who has not studied the Co-operative Movement sympathetically to understand its real aims, or to appreciate the benefits it bestows upon that part of the community to whom life—at its easiest—is but a hand-to-mouth struggle for existence.

I am obliged to her, however, for one useful illustration of the position of co-operators in relation to Income-tax.

We do stand in the position of the retail trader, in the sense that our purchases are made wholesale, or produced for ourselves in our own factories at cost price, but the resemblance ceases at this point; unless Mrs. Smyth-Pigott will imagine the trader *consuming all the goods he buys wholesale within his own family*. If he were to do this, no one would dream of asking him to pay income-tax on those goods, because, although he would gain considerable advantage from his wholesale buying, he would make no "profit" in a taxable sense out of the appetites of his family. But he does not consume them thus; he offers them to the community at large, at a price which he calculates will give him a sufficient margin to meet his responsibilities, and leave him something over as the beginning of a fortune. In cold fact, it is the customers of the trader who pay his income-tax, provided, of course, that he has been able to extract enough profit out of them to render him liable to income-tax. I think Mrs. Smyth-Pigott must be aware that the small struggling tradesman pays no tax until his income rises above the £120 limit.

He does not pay income-tax in any case *because* he is a trader, but because he is an individual citizen whose annual income warrants the imposition of the tax. As I pointed out in my article, every co-operator whose income is taxable pays the tax the same as any other citizen. Ninety-six out of every hundred members of co-operative societies do not earn incomes of £120 per annum, and they are no more liable to pay than the struggling tradesman.

I do not quite understand Mrs. Smyth-Pigott's contention that "housewives are merely the nominees of the husbands, whose wages are not stated." When I speak of the "thrifty working-class housewife," I mean the wife of the working man whose total earnings are less than £2 10s. per week. The total earnings of a great mass of co-operators are below 30s. per week, and few of them can put down £1 for a share in the store all at once; they pay an entrance sum of 1s., and build up the rest out of the surplus (called dividend) which comes to them as a result of their joint dealings, in the effort to spend their husband's earnings to the best advantage.

The whole capital of co-operation has been built up in this way. The Industrial and Provident Societies' Act, under which every society is registered, does not allow any one person to hold more than £200, and, as I said in my article, the average holding is about £16 per member: 65 per cent. of the members are women—the housewives of whom I wrote.

The mistake which so many people make, in common with Mrs. Smyth-Pigott, is that they look upon the store buildings and management as a something apart from the customers. No Co-operative Society can open a shop until there are enough members to supply the capital necessary for beginning business and to consume the goods jointly purchased. No reasonable person can take exception to this action; there is no law compelling working people to support a system of small struggling tradesmen, if, by means of combination they can find a more modern and economical way of providing themselves with the necessities of life. Well-to-do people have long since abandoned the "small struggling tradesman," and quite readily support his keenest competitor, the soul-less multiple shop, or the enterprising American merchant who comes to set our jog-trot British methods of shopkeeping topsy-turvy.

I have not seen the statement in *The Herald* to which Mrs. Smyth-Pigott refers, and the point she raises in her last paragraph is beside the question of the legality of income-tax imposition. But I may tell her for her comfort that the women co-operators instigated, and pressed through Congress, the acceptance of a minimum scale of wages for all women workers in co-operative societies, workshops, and factories, which was, at the time of its adoption (1911) considerably in advance of any wage scale for similar work under competitive conditions.

We deeply regret it if any Society fails to carry out the Congress standard in this respect, but I should require more precise data than the few Press quotations Mrs. Smyth-Pigott offers before allowing that sweated conditions are general, or even occasional, in our co-operative organisations.

This is, however, as I said, beside the point of my article, which was intended to show that *the great mass of co-operators are not liable to income-tax in any shape or form*, and that to try to impose it upon them through their thrifty efforts to make the household spendings go as far as possible, is unjust, inequitable, and impracticable.

If Mrs. Smyth-Pigott could spare time to make personal acquaintance with some of our co-operative institutions, such as the Women's Co-operative Guild, and study the principles and practices of co-operation at first hand, I feel sure her interest would be awakened, and her misunderstanding cleared away.

Catherine Webb.

WHY THERE IS NOT AN AGREED BILL FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Madam,—The principles involved in the following clauses are, in the opinion of the Committee for State Registration, vital to a good Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. The Committee has made many concessions to the College, but would have failed in its trust if it had yielded on these points. It was their rejection by the College which caused negotiations to be broken off and prevented an agreed Bill :—

Clause 5. (1) On the passing of this Act and for a term of two years the Council shall consist of forty-five persons, of whom :—

2 shall be appointed by the Privy Council,
3 by Local Government Boards,
3 by the Council of the British Medical Association,
1 by the Medico-Psychological Association,
6 by the Nurse Training Schools,
15 by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and,
15 by the College of Nursing, Ltd.

Note.—This provides for a representative elected First Council responsible to existing bodies. This principle had been conceded by the College in a previous draft, but was afterwards withdrawn, the clause being replaced by one providing that forty-five persons should be nominated by name without conceding the *right* to nominate any of them to any representative body.

Clause 6. Any person who within two years from the commencement of this Act claims to be registered thereunder shall be so registered, provided that such person is at least twenty-one years of age and is of good character, and (1) holds a certificate of training, or (2) produces evidence satisfactory to the Council of training, from a *Hospital* or *Hospitals* approved by the Council.

Note.—Provides that some Hospital training is an essential qualification for the Register.

Clause 7. After the expiration of the said term of grace any person who claims to be registered under the Act shall be eligible to be registered provided such person is at least twenty-one years of age, is of good character, and has had the training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a *Hospital or of Hospitals approved by the Council.*

Note.—Provides that some Hospital training is an essential qualification for the Register.

The Central Committee is now proceeding with its own Bill, which guarantees what the College Bill does not :—

1. An elected first Council,
2. That there shall be one Central Examination,
3. That nurses on the Register shall be Hospital trained.

It is essential that nurses and all those interested in them should read both Bills, the one promoted by the College and the recently amended Bill of the Central Committee for State Registration, and should then judge for themselves.

E. L. C. Eden.

We have received, too late for publication this week, a copy of a resolution of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, protesting against the action of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in breaking off negotiations with the College of Nursing, Ltd., with regard to an agreed Bill.

"The Common Cause" Hut Fund (Y.W.C.A.)

We hope that all the Societies in the National Union are collecting for our Hut for women workers to be erected in connection with the Y.W.C.A. scheme.

It will cost £500,

and when erected will bear the inscription,

"Presented by Readers of 'The Common Cause.'"

Many women who would like to be working for the nation, but are unable to take any active part, will be glad to help to make the day's work easier for the women who are toiling in factories. Will our readers bring this opportunity to the notice of anyone in their district to whom it is likely to appeal, at the same time trying to interest her in our paper.

We thank the following subscribers very warmly for their kind and generous response to last week's appeal:—

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Some Useful Pamphlets.

MOTHERS IN MEAN STREETS. By Anna Martin, with a Preface by Gerald Gould. (The United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, E.C. 2d.)

Miss Martin has lived for years among the working women of Rotherhithe, and gives a number of first-hand cases, showing with what intolerable hardship man-made laws press upon women of this class, both in their drafting and in their administration. "However reluctant you may be to admit the pitifulness, the misery, the degradation, of the present economic and political status of women, you cannot but admit the hard facts which Miss Martin presents," says Mr. Gerald Gould in his preface.

CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN MILK. (St. Catherine Press. 1s.)

A series of articles republished from *The Observer*, showing how our supplies are contaminated, and explaining various proposals put forward by the National Clean Milk Society.

AN EDUCATIONAL POLICY FOR WOMEN. By Mrs. Percy Alden. (Women's Municipal Party, 62, Oxford Street, W.)

Deals mainly with Schools for Mothers and Day Trade Schools, and shows the need for women to take an active interest in educational questions.

HINTS TO V.A.D. MEMBERS IN HOSPITALS. By E. C. Barton, Matron of Chelsea Infirmary and Principal Matron of the Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth. (*The Nursing Times*, St. Martin's Street, E.C. 6d.)

In addition to advice with regard to many practical details of hospital work, such as bed-making, the taking of temperatures, Miss Barton writes of the right spirit in which the work should be undertaken, of hospital etiquette, and the duty of the V.A.D. to maintain the dignity of the nursing profession.

A GIRL'S SCHOOL OUTFIT. By Hilda M. Skinner, of Somerville College. (Truslove & Hanson. 2s.)

A most useful little manual, giving directions for making practical girls' clothing of every description. It contains many illustrations and diagrams drawn to scale, which will be a great help to the novice in cutting out.

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF DEACONESSES. By E. A. Gilchrist. (Church League for Women's Suffrage. 1d.)

An interesting account of the foundation of the Order, its revival half a century ago, and its work both past and present.

THE DILUTION OF LABOUR. A War and After-War Problem. By Percy Alden, M.P. (1d.)

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF COAL AND RENT, RAILWAYS AND SHIPPING. By Percy Alden, M.P. (1d.) (National Adult School Union.).

JESUS CHRIST AND THE MAN OF TO-DAY: Study-Circle Outline Notes. By Gerald K. Hibbert. (2d.)

THE ADULT SCHOOL UNION HANDBOOK. (Headley. 6d. net, 8d. post free, paper cover; 1s. net, 1s. 3d., post free, cloth.) A complete scheme of study for 1917, with Bible and Literary References.

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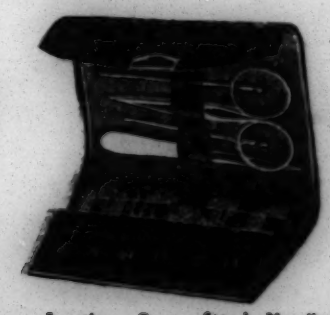

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Current Work

At the Quarterly Conference held at Sunderland House, between the Executive Committee and Local Representatives, Lady Barrett kindly gave an address on the L.C.C. scheme for the provision of free treatment for Venereal Diseases in connection with the London Hospitals.

At the N.U.W.W. Conference, on Dec. 7th and 8th, The Women's Municipal Party's Resolution on the Need of Women on Public Bodies, is supported by 22 Branches and 10 Affiliated Societies.

A new Local Advisory Committee has been formed in Wandsworth, Chairman: Mrs. Bentham. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Glanville.

On November 1st Mrs. Temple Bird, Chairman of the Hammersmith Advisory Committee, was nominated and seconded as a candidate for the vacancy on Hammersmith Borough Council. Mr. W. Percy Waters was elected

December Meetings

CHELSEA Dec. 12th. Drawing Room Meeting: Mrs. Hubert Walter, 19, Cheyne Place. Speaker: Lady Barrett, M.D.M.S. Chair: Lady Sydenham.

FINSBURY—Dec. 4th. Drawing-Room Meeting: Mrs. Southall, Leysiau Mission. Speaker: Mrs. Deane Streatfeild. Chair: Mrs. Wishart.

KENSINGTON—Dec. 14th. Lady Frances Balfour: "At Home." 32, Addison Road, W.

ST. PANCRAS—Dec. 12th. Drawing-Room Meeting: Mrs. J. H. Harley, 18, Maitland Park Villas, N.W. Speaker: Councillor Miss M. E. Balkwill. Chair: Mrs. T. H. W. Idris, (ex-Councillor of St. Pancras). Annual Business Meeting of St. Pancras Members at 3 p.m.

Women's Municipal Party Citizen Associations

ISLINGTON—Dec. 15th. Emmanuel Hall, Hornsey Road, N. Speaker: Miss E. Bright-Ashford, B.A. Music.

UPPER NORWOOD - Dec. 7th. "Daughters of Empire Club," Westow Street. Speaker: Miss Damar Dawson, Chief Officer, Women Police. Recitations by Mrs. Fred Nettlefold.

ST. PANCRAS—Dec. 19th. Lyndhurst Hall, Warden Road, N.W. Speaker: Miss E. Bright-Ashford, B.A. Music.

Particulars of the W.M.P. and cards for the above Meetings of the Secretary, 7, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.

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Before selecting your Christmas presents, send for a description of the Irish Linen, lace-edged handkerchiefs made by the Armenian refugees in the camp at Port Said, under the superintendence of our representatives there. These handkerchiefs make very acceptable gifts, and measure 11 inches square. The price is from 1/2—2/2 each according to the work, and a smaller one is sold at 1/- each.

We also have in stock a supply of pre-war embroideries made by the widows and orphans—victims of former massacres. The stock comprises table-covers, tray-cloths, afternoon tea-cloths, bags, d'oyleys, cushion covers, etc., etc., and parcels of these embroideries, or of the handkerchiefs, are gladly sent on approval on application to the Office Secretary, Miss Hickson.

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"Go to the Ant."

It has often been remarked that proverbial sayings, if they crystallise human wisdom, give us refracted views of human nature, and that the influence of proverbs (if they have any) is all for evil. "Charity begins at home," has no doubt closed many a half-open purse; and "More haste, less speed," lost many a train. Most proverbs have for their end discouragement, and urge us to refrain, to delay, or to abstain altogether. So often have we been taught that procrastination is the better part of wisdom; such large numbers of us are prepared to find a positive virtue in lethargy, that these great and stirring times have caught us unawares. The complaint of the British Press has lately been that we have forgotten how to act, and the Prime Minister's pet formula, "Wait and See," is now the stock jibe of the journalist. Possibly under the raillery of the Press, our legislators have been goaded into certain of their activities. The history of recent attempts to deal with the Register, furnishes curious reading, and suggests that legislators, even when hard pressed, remain true to the dictates of a hoary philosophy learned in youth. How is it possible, asks an ingenious enquirer, to go through so much debate and yet accomplish so little? How is it possible to "consider" year after year, without result, problems which admit of obvious solution?

Solomon, out of his great wisdom, addressing the slacker, urged him "to go to the ant, consider her ways, and be wise." Now everyone who has spent an hour or so in watching "her ways" can readily see how Machiavellian was this advice. The ant is busy; the ant is active; the expenditure of energy is enormous—but the results? Procrastination itself could hardly have less to show. A desirable object is discovered; the ants endeavour to tug it home, find it too heavy, drop it, and go. Other ants emerge and tug, sometimes in the same direction, sometimes in another, till, for reasons of their own, the object again is dropped. If you watch very closely for long enough time, you will see that the object has lost a good deal by attrition, that small scraps and fragments have been detached and carried off in triumph, but the bulk lies very much where it did; so that if the ant-tribe had refrained from action altogether, the results would have been about the same. Was this the sardonic conclusion of Solomon when he bade us learn wisdom of the ant?

Let us consider the ways of the legislator, when he tackles Registration. One day—it was November a year ago—it was discovered that Registration lay in the way, and would have to be tackled seriously. Nobody liked the look of it. So legislators let it alone. They voted Parliament a longer life and went their way.

In May it was discovered that the old Register was decaying—rapidly. Something must be done. The Government thought of "announcing their intentions within a week." In July, again the Register forced itself on their attention, and suggestions were made for dealing with it. Feelers were put out. Sir Edward Carson then demanded a new Register, and votes for all soldiers and sailors. Obstacles were seen at first to be serious and imagined to be insuperable. The Prime Minister, who had attempted to tackle the matter, withdrew. The matter dropped. In August the House tried another tug. The claims of women were seen to be inextricably involved with those of men—soldiers and sailors. This the Prime Minister saw. The matter was dropped again. Parliament voted itself a longer life and again dispersed.

In October, a frontal attack was made with a Government Bill—and failed. The Speaker ruled all amendments out of order; this time the Bill disappeared from sight. A flank attack was arranged through the Speaker's Conference, which is still considering its strategic moves, and will no doubt

report "in fullness of time." A pause now ensued. "Go to the ant," indeed!

Then an effort was made from the Upper House. The Marquis of Salisbury had a try at abolishing the old Register, now growing, as he pathetically said, "staler every day." The Government then expressed a wish to confer with the author of this Bill, and spoke of opportunities in the Lower House for discussing "wider aspects." The noble Marquis paused, and hesitated. Lord Lansdowne said "that the Government would neither make any pronouncement as to their own Bill, nor could they accept Lord Salisbury's. It was, in fact, unacceptable to all the four Government departments concerned"; but, he added, "there was no objection to its being sent down to the House of Commons." Thus encouraged, the Marquis of Salisbury decided to resume his toil, and laboriously pushed his Bill through Committee stage into Report. What is the outcome of a year's "consideration"? What has been the result of all this ant-like industry? Have our legislators considered her ways and been "wise"? At any rate, they have been busy accomplishing nothing—at great expense. The fact is, behind all this sterile effort lies a fundamental misconception. There are still people who, as has been justly said, entertain "the notion that a State can afford to leave millions of its people outside its political system, and still obtain their best service." The services of all the men are necessary; so are the services of all women. Without their services, without their co-operation, no war of warriors could continue. Women are the guardians of the vital resources of the race. Yet the design of all this eager futility is to exclude them from a voice in determining our destinies.

The fast-decaying Register remains—a mountain of offence, to block the way. Simple, effective, and, indeed, obvious methods exist of clearing it out of the road and of providing a new Voters' Roll. In time, no doubt, they will be employed; but not yet. Not until every elaborate means of getting nothing done has been fully tried. Not until at last even the House of Commons sees what the nation has long realised, that with the men of the nation stand the women; that the battle of European freedom is also the battle of women's freedom; that while we are, all of us, men and women, united against the forces of reaction that would enslave Europe, we cannot afford to haggle at home and insist on childishly restricting the liberties of the women of the Commonwealth.

Our Children—Wage-Earners or Future Citizens?—II.

We have considered the position of the children still liable to school attendance, what of those who have already passed into the labour market?

The outbreak of war caused a wave of unemployment among juveniles, severe while it lasted. But the number of men enlisting quickly created a shortage of labour, and the demand for juvenile labour, at first rising slowly, has now attained a height entirely unprecedented, partly due to the enlistments and partly due to the demand for munitions and war supplies of all kinds. Boys are receiving the wages of men, girls are receiving the wages of boys, and both can pick and choose their situations with the certainty that if the first offered does not suit plenty of others are to be had.

But what is the quality of the work offered? What are the prospects? What are the conditions? What is the effect of such high wages?

That the quantity of work has increased is obvious, that the quality of the work has deteriorated is equally obvious; good vacancies with prospects have become scarce, second-class vacancies and blind-alley employment have increased by leaps and bounds. Nearly all war-work on which children are employed is blind-alley work, of no educational value and with no future. The various processes are nearly all mechanical—cartridge filling, testing, packing, bullet rolling, repetition lathework, food packing, leather and canvas stitching, &c., &c. The engineering trade alone has absorbed far more boys than it can eventually retain, and even those who may remain are suffering because the work has become increasingly sectionalised—a boy is kept at one process, usually an unskilled or semi-skilled one, because rapidity of production is the main object. Again, the proportion of boys to skilled men in a shop has increased enormously, cases of forty boys under eighteen years of age with one skilled mechanic are not uncommon, and the opportunities of learning are necessarily less. Girls have gone into all kinds of new work, especially messenger work, little of which offers any permanent prospects. The Post Office in London is employing girls as telegraph messengers instead of boys, but so far it has not been possible to arrange educational classes for them, as is done for the boys, and they will be dismissed at sixteen, with no training of any kind for any other trade or occupation. With both boys and girls the only criterion which is applied to a situation is the one of wages. If wages are anything above eight shillings the situation is a good one; if under, a bad one. No consideration of the future weighs with the children, and good vacancies have remained unfilled because no one would take a learner's wage. Though in some trades peace may bring a big boom, at least in London, the home of the luxury trades, we cannot look for a sudden outburst of prosperity. The juvenile again, in many trades, is himself a luxury, and is cut down without hesitation in case of need.

Mention has been already made of the high wages obtained by juveniles, we find boys of fourteen in munition work earning from twenty to forty shillings a week, and even more; errand-boys obtaining sixteen shillings a week, and, in one case, a boy of fifteen, with a deformed hand, refusing to start in the iron trade under twenty-three shillings a week. These high wages, obtainable at unskilled work (the higher the wage the less there is to learn), have had an unhappy effect in many cases, children have shown a marked inclination to change places readily, throwing up work on the smallest excuse, or even none at all, and losing all power of steady application; a boy who had fourteen jobs in six months is an example of this loss of power. Cases of theft have been attributed to the higher spending-power of some boys arousing envy in those less fortunately placed, and parents complain of the independence of children of fourteen and fifteen, shown by their refusal to state where they work or what they earn, and even by their absenting themselves from home for varying periods without notice or explanation. And under what conditions are these children working? In the very large majority of cases boys over fourteen and girls over sixteen in munitions, work on twelve-hour shifts, alternate day and night work, these hours being considerably lengthened by the journey to and fro. In London the journey in some cases adds as much as four hours a day to the working hours. Usually one day in seven is free, but it is not infrequent for boys to work thirteen days out of fourteen. For girls, in London, hours of work are given as sixty a week, or ten, eleven, or twelve per day, *exclusive* of meal times. And this at an age when doctors unite in warning us that both boys and girls require care, rest, and freedom from overstrain if they are to develop into healthy, strong men and women.

Club-workers, parents, employers, care-committee workers, juvenile advisory committees, chief constables all unite, as in the case of the school children, in testifying to and deploring the increase of excitability and instability, the resentment of discipline, restraint or advice, the growth of unruliness and petty crime. The post-war prospects are serious. The nation will be confronted with a mass of young persons who, in many cases, have had their education curtailed, whose health and physique are undermined by overwork and nervous strain, and whose morale has been injured by the earning of extravagant wages for unskilled work and by the facility with which such work could be obtained, which has tempted them to move constantly from one situation to another, so that power of steady application is seriously diminished.

These children will, in their turn, be the nation itself, the fathers and mothers of our future nation. Is it to such as these that the fruits of our bitterly-won victory are to be handed? Are we wise in using our children to-day so freely as wage-earners, or would it be wiser to care for them as the future citizens of our Empire, as the future citizens of the world, for whose renaissance we look so eagerly after the war?

E. M. SALMOND.

THE LONDON SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the London Society was held on November 28th, at Caxton Hall. Miss Robinson read a very interesting report of a most full and varied year's work, of which we hope to give a summary in our next issue. Mrs. Fawcett, in her presidential address, said that our opponents insisted that Suffragists were working in order to get the vote. They were working to serve the nation, and wanted the vote in order that they might serve the nation better.

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Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage
MASS MEETING
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Oddfellows' Hall, Edinburgh,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 6.30 p.m.
Messages to the Government from:—
Councillor Bruce Lindsay, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council and N.M.F.) Councillor John McMichael, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council and N.M.F.) Bailie Hamilton Brown, J.P. (Glasgow Town Council and N.M.F) Councillor Charlton (Glasgow Town Council; late President Glasgow Trades Council and N.M.F.) Mr. Robert Ferguson (Hon. Sec. Glasgow N.M.F.) Mr. J. Wilson McLaren (N.M.F.) Mr. James Brunton (Trustee, Trades Council and N.M.F.) Mr. Andrew Young, M.A. (N.M.F.) and others.
Chair: Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (President N.M.F.)
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Notes from Headquarters.

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Trades and Labour Councils and Trade Unions all over the country seem to be very much alive to the Suffrage situation. Resolutions testifying to their renewed support of the Women's Movement are being daily received at our office. These show the good work which has been, and is being, done by our Societies amongst working men and women. We would especially congratulate Bradford, Glasgow, Birkenhead, Edinburgh, and Lincoln on their success.

We have much pleasure in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Strachey on the birth of a son at 96, South Hill Park, Hampstead, on November 16th.

Sir Joseph Walton and the Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes signified their willingness to sign the letter from prominent men supporters of Women's Suffrage published in our last issue, but their names were unfortunately received too late for publication with the letter.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916	172	1	11
Received from November 26th to 27th, 1916:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Miss Dillwyn	1	0	0
Miss Meade-King		10	0
Miss Frances Sterling	5	0	0
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West Riding Federation:—			
Huddersfield W.S.S. — Jumble Sale	10	0	0
Wakefield W.S.S.—Jumble Sale	2	14	8
Mrs. C. C. Paynter	2	0	0
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The "Lerwick" Bed at Royaumont.

THE Lerwick Bed is in the "Elsie Inglis" Ward, which is at present exclusively occupied by Senegalese and Arabs.

Kuli Bali Marmadhou, its present occupant, is a Senegali. He is a tall, fine-looking fellow, in spite of his coal-black skin and woolly hair, and his features are less African in type than some of his comrades, the nose being not so broad and the lips less thick. He has had his left arm amputated from the shoulder through gas-gangrene. His was a very bad case, but now he looks quite well and strong. In his own country he was a cultivator or farmer, and I think he must have been a kind of chief among his people from the strange metal bracelet he wears in the form of a double-headed snake, made of copper and gold.

From what I have been able to gather of his past life, it seems to have been quite patriarchal—grandfather, sons, and grandsons all living on the same lands, with many cattle, sheep, and oxen, and he tells me they grew much grain. His grandfather, his father, and two brothers, are all fighting in France now. Communicative up to a certain point, Kuli Bali is very reserved about his own domestic affairs. No one has been able to gather whether he is married, or how much! Some of the Senegalis in the Ward have three wives.

Kuli Bali is the sort of leader of the wards in matters of discipline and conduct. His manners are very good now, and he is very sensitive and affectionate. He has a little collection of picture postcards and other souvenirs which have been given him from time to time, and he keeps them in a little box wrapped carefully in a handkerchief, and takes them out several times a day and pores over them.

Sister found him kissing them all one evening!

He is very unhappy if, in consequence of some small misdemeanour Sister is "*pas contente*" or "*fachée*" with him, and it is pathetic to see his efforts to get into favour again, by sweeping, bringing in the soup, etc. They are just big children these Senegalis; little things please them immensely—the big coloured air-balloons which one finds in the streets of Paris, india-rubber toys, or sweets!

They are not popular patients in the French Military Hospitals, these black Golliwogs of ours, as they are supposed to be very difficult to manage—but here, and now, they are behaving like gentlemen. At first they were extremely trying, their habits and customs being very obnoxious, but with the "Scottish Women" they have been most adaptable, and have gradually become docile and decent.

They adore their doctor and nurses, whom they call respectively, "First Mammy" and "Mamman Sistare." It is a wonderful thing to see the tiny, bright-eyed sister managing a ward full of these big black men, and having her lightest word and look obeyed.

It is sad to think of the future of these poor maimed children of the sun (who have been hurt fighting for a land which was not their own) when they leave the kindness and tender motherly care they have had at Royaumont. Limbless heroes have a poor welcome in Africa! But the time spent here will, I know, ever remain with them as a bright and outstanding memory.

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Flügel, Mrs. C.	10	0	0
Ffooks, Mr. and Mrs., and Maids	1	0	0
Footner, Miss	1	0	0
Forbes, Mrs.	1	1	0
Forth, Miss H.	5	0	0
Foster, Mrs. M. A.	3	3	0
Fowler, Lieut.-Col. V. A. ...	1	1	0
Fowler, Mrs.	4	4	0
Fox, Mrs. Fortescue	1	0	0
Francis, Pte. S. L., R.A.M.C. ...	5	0	0
Gale, H. John, Esq.	2	0	0
Gall, Mrs.	1	1	0
Gamlen, Miss	1	0	0
Gandar, Miss	1	1	0
Garnett, Mrs. C. M.	5	0	0
Gibbings, Miss Jessie	1	1	0
Gilstrap, Miss J. E.	10	0	0
G. K. F. M.	2	0	0
Glasier, Miss Florence G. ...	5	0	0
Glubb, Miss C. M.		15	0
Goldie, The Misses	2	2	0
Goodden, Mrs.	2	2	0
Goodman, Henry, Esq.	2	0	0
Gordon, Miss		5	0
Gosling, R. C., Esq.	10	0	0
Gosset, Miss G.		5	0
Gourlay, Mrs.	5	5	0
Griffithe, Miss M.		10	0
Grummant, J. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Gruchy, Mrs.		10	0
Gurney, Miss Amelia	2	2	0
Gwynne, Miss Isabel	1	0	0
Hadden, Miss		10	0
Hale, G. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Hall, Miss Annie	1	0	0
Hall, Mrs.	1	0	0
Hammond, Mrs.		4	0
Hampstead Branch, Per the ...		2	6
Hanner, Miss D. M.	1	0	0
Hardwick, Miss Eleanor ...	1	0	0
Hardy, Mrs.	5	0	0
Harland, Mrs.	5	0	0
Harraden, Miss Beatrice ...	1	1	0
Hartley, Sir William ...	100	0	0
Hattersley, Miss M.	1	0	0
Haughton, Miss	1	0	0
Hayne, Miss Amy S.	2	0	0
Haythornthwaite, Mrs.	1	1	0
Heathmore, A., Esq.	2	0	0
Hebeler, Mrs.	1	0	0
Hebeler, Miss		10	0
Henderson, Richard, Esq. ...	10	0	0
Hensman, Mrs.		7	6
Henston, V. D., Esq.		10	0
Higginson, Mrs.	2	0	0
Highgate Drawing Room Meeting (Mrs. Harrington) ...	6	0	0
Highland Soc. of London, The	5	5	0
Hill, Miss B. M.		10	0
Hill, Mrs.	2	0	0
Hill, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hinde, Mrs. (monthly don.) ...		5	0
Hodge, Miss M.	1	0	0
Hodgson, Mrs.		5	0
Hogg, Mrs.	5	0	0
Holland, Mrs. A. E.	10	0	0
Holt Skinner, Mrs. G.	2	0	0
Hoodlass, Mr. and Mrs. I. ...		10	0
Hoyt Metal Co., The, of Great Britain	1	0	0
Hubble, Mrs.		5	0
Huddleston, Mrs.	2	0	0
Hulton, Canon	50	0	0
Humphrey, Miss Edith	2	0	0
Humphrey, Miss L. S.		5	0
Hunter, Mrs. A.	5	0	0
Hyde, Miss		5	0
Iles, Mrs. E.	1	0	0
Innes, Miss A. S.	2	0	0
James, Miss		15	0
James, Mrs.	1	1	0
J. F.	50	0	0
Jennings, Miss E.	2	2	0
Jervois, Mrs.	50	0	0
Johnson, W., Esq.		5	0
Johnstone, Dr. E. M.	5	0	0
Johnston, Mrs. Rose	1	0	0
Johnstone, Mrs. Laurie	10	0	0
Jones, Per Miss Grace H. ...		10	0
Joyce, Miss		10	0
Karslake, Miss	1	0	0
Kelsall, Miss E. M.		5	0
Kemplay, Miss C.	10	10	0
Kennedy, Miss	5	0	0
Kennedy, Mrs. A.	25	0	0
Kennedy, Miss C.	1	0	0
Kennington, E. H., Esq. ...	1	1	0
Kensington Branch W.S.S., Mrs. Waterlow's Meeting	12	8	6
Kent, B. J., Esq.	1	0	0
King, The Rev. H. R.	1	1	0
King Brothers, Messrs.		10	6
Kingham, W. R., Esq.		10	6
Kingsford, Miss		2	0
Kingshorn, Miss M. M.		10	0
Kinnison, Mrs.	25	0	0
Knox, Miss Dorothy	3	3	0
L'Amy, Miss Ramsay	3	3	0
Lancaster, Miss H.	1	1	0
Langton, Miss Hilda	5	0	0
Larsen, Miss Eleanor	1	0	0
Latimer, Mrs.		10	0
Lawrence, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lawrence, Mrs. T. J.	2	0	0
Lee, Mrs. G.	1	1	0
Leggett, Mrs.	2	10	0
Lehman, Mr. and Mrs.	5	0	0
L. I. L.	5	6	8
Leith, Miss A. A.	1	0	0
Leith, Miss Emily	2	0	0
Le Maistre, Miss M. K.	2	0	6
Leon, Mrs. Phillip	2	0	0
Login, Miss Ethel		10	6
Login, Miss H. M.	1	1	0
Lomer, Miss	3	0	0
London Aberdonian	1	1	0
Langmore, H. F., Esq.	7	0	0
Longhorn, Miss A.		2	6
Luscombe, R. R., Esq.	5	0	0
Lyon, J. A., Esq.	5	5	0
M	1	1	0
Macdonald, Miss G.	2	0	0
Macfarlane, Mrs.	2	0	0
McFarlane, Miss A.	5	0	0
MacIlwaine, Mrs.	1	0	0
MacLehase, Mrs. Norman ...	2	2	0
McVean, G., Esq.	2	2	0
Marks, Miss	5	0	0
Marshall, Mrs.	1	0	0
Martyn, Miss	1	1	0
Mason, Miss T.		10	0
Matthews, Lady	5	5	0
Maude, Miss E.	5	0	0
Maurice, Mrs.	2	0	0
Mayna, Mrs.	2	0	0
M. C. C.	2	2	0
M. D. J. S.	2	0	0
Medcalf, F. T., Esq.	5	0	0
Medcalf, Jos., Esq.		5	0
Menzies, W. D. Graham, Esq. ...	10	10	0
Mierille, Dr. G. C. B.	1	1	0
Middleton, Mrs.	5	0	0
Midhurst, F., Esq.	1	1	0
Mildmay, Miss	3	0	0
Miller, William, Esq.	5	0	0
M. L. F.		2	0
M. M. L.	3	0	0
Moir, C. N., Esq.	100	0	0
Molle, Miss	3	3	0
Molyneaux, Miss	10	0	0
Monckton, Miss		10	0
Moncrieff, Lady Scott	5	0	0
Moore, Mrs. Lewis F.	5	0	0
Morin, Miss Maud		2	6
Morrison, K. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Monteath, Sir R. G.	20	0	0
Moss, The Rev. Prebendary ...	5	0	0
Mott, Mrs. F. W.	2	2	0
Mozley, The Rev. F. W. ...	2	2	0
Munro, Mrs. M.	2	2	0
Murphy, Mrs.	5	0	0
Murray, Miss E. M.		8	0
Musket, Mr. and Mrs.	5	5	0
Neil, Mrs. James		2	6
Nettlefold, Miss	50	0	0
Newbold, Mrs.	5	0	0
Newbury Branch of Oxford Guild of Church Bell Ringers	1	0	0
Newton, Miss M. J.	1	0	0
New South Wales Clothing Depôt	50	0	0
Niblett, Mrs.	15	0	0
Officer, Wm., Esq.	5	0	0
Ogilvie, Mrs.	5	0	0
O'Grady, Mrs.		3	6
Olding, Miss	2	2	0
Oliver, Mrs.	5	0	0
Ollivant, J. E., Esq.	1	1	9
Orde, Miss Beatrice	2	0	0
Ormerod, Miss	3	3	0
Otway, Miss	2	2	0
Paddington Club for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Mothers		2	4
Page, Miss Hilda W.	1	2	6
Parr, Miss M.	1	0	0
Payne, Mrs.	2	2	0
Payne, Miss	1	1	0
Payne, Miss C.		17	0
Pearce, C. Maresco, Esq. ...	3	0	0
Pearse, Miss	1	0	0
Peile, Mrs. K.	1	1	0
Pembroke, Dowager Countess of	5	0	0
Phillips, Miss Alice		10	0
Pilkington, Major	25	0	0
Pooley, Henry F., Esq.	2	2	0
Porter, Miss	5	0	0
Portman, Mrs. W. B.	1	0	0
Portman, Miss E.	1	0	0
Powell, Miss J. M.	2	0	0
Pratt, Mrs.		2	6
Preston, Miss Elizabeth S. ...	1	0	0
Prideaux-Brune, The Hon. Mrs.	3	3	0
Quin, The Lady Emily Wyndham	2	0	0
Rae, Mrs. J.		5	0
Ramsay, Lieut.-Col.	5	0	0
Ranksborough, Lady	20	0	0
Ravenshaw, The Rev. and Mrs.	2	2	0
Reepmaker, Mrs.		5	0
Reid, Miss Flora C.		10	0
Reid, Miss J. M.	1	0	0
Rendel, H. Goodhart, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Rendel, James, Esq.	30	0	0
Reynolds, F. G., Esq.	2	0	0
Reynolds, Miss Grace	1	1	0
Richardson, Mrs. W.	5	5	0
Riddick, Miss	3	3	0
Riddick, Mrs.	10	0	0
Ridsdale, Miss D. M.	1	0	0
Riley, Miss H. W.		5	0
Roberts, Miss J. Adair	5	0	0
Robinson, Miss		2	6
Robinson, Mrs. G. R.	1	2	2
Robinson, Miss May	1	0	0
Robson, T., Esq.		1	0
Robinson, Mrs. W.		10	0
Rope, Miss A. M.	1	1	0
Rose, W., Esq.	1	1	0
Round, Mr. and Mrs.	1	1	0
Rymer, Mrs. J. G.		5	0
Sadleir, Misses	2	0	0
"St. Bride's Bed," per Mrs. Laurie	50	0	0
St. John, Miss J. M.	1	0	0
Sale, Arthur, Esq.	2	2	0
Samuel, W. Cobden, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Sandwith, Miss	5	0	0
Sants, Alfred, Esq.	1	1	0
Saville, H. T., Esq.	1	0	0
Sayle, Mrs.	10	0	0
"Scarborough W.S.S. Bed," per Mrs. Laurie	25	0	0
Scharlieb, Mrs. Mary, M.D.M.S.	5	5	0
Schwann, Mrs. J. A.	2	2	0
Scrase, Miss E.		10	0
Scott-Kerr, Miss	5	0	0
Seaton, Mrs. F. M.	2	0	0
Sharpe, Miss E.	3	0	0
Shaw, Mrs.		5	0
Shaw, Miss Annie Jane	2	0	0
Shaw, Miss Florence M.... ...	2	0	0
Shaw, Miss L. Kate	2	0	0
Sherard, Mrs.	2	0	0
Short, Mrs. E. M. de C.	2	2	0
Simpson, Mrs. F. S.	10	0	0
Sinton, Arthur A., Esq.	5	0	0
Skelsmergh Church, Silloth ...	1	5	0
Smith, Mrs. Eustace	5	0	0
Smith, E. H., Esq.	2	0	0
Smith, Miss F. E.	2	0	0
Smith, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Smith, Miss Marion	100	0	0
Smith, Miss S. C. E.		10	0
Smith, The Hon. Mrs. Sidney...	3	0	0
Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Mothers, Rotherham ...		4	0
Spencer, Miss Matilda J. ...	100	0	0
Staff of John Howell & Co. ...	5	5	0
Stallschmidt, Miss F.		10	0
Steemson, Miss Emily	1	0	0
Stephenson, Mrs.		10	0
Sterling, Miss Frances	1	0	0
Sterling, Major John, T.F. ...	1	0	0
Stevenson, Mrs. H.	10	0	0
Stewart, Miss Emma M.	1	0	0
Stewart, Miss J. J.		5	0
Stockdale, Miss M.		10	0
Stoehr, Miss C. W.	30	0	0
Stone, The Rev. C. H.		10	0
Smith, Mrs. A.	5	0	0
Stoney, C. P., Esq.	5	0	0
Storrs, Mrs. Francis	1	1	0
Straker, Mrs. Joseph	5	0	0
Strand Theatre, Mr. Matheson Lang and Mr. Jose G. Levy...	75	0	0
Sturgeon, Miss	1	0	0
Suft, Miss	1	0	0
Swinglehurst, Mrs.	1	0	0
Tarbett, Miss	2	0	0
Taylor, Miss M. L.	2	0	0
Terry, Miss E.		10	0
Thommasson, Capt., R.A.M.C....		10	0
Thompson, Miss M. G.	1	1	0
Thompson, Mrs. Percy	10	0	0
Thomson, The Misses	3	3	0
Thomson, Mrs. Campbell ...	1	1	0
Thurlow, Miss		2	0
Tite, Mrs. George		2	6
Toad, Mrs.	10	10	0
Todhunter, Mrs.	1	0	0
Trollope, The Misses	25	0	0
Turnbull, Mrs.	1	0	0
Turner, Esq., A. F.	3	0	0
Turner, Esq., H. Townes ...	5	0	0
Underdown, Miss E.	1	1	0
Vandrey, Mrs. Edmund ...	3	0	0
Venables, Mrs.	1	0	0
Vine, Mrs. Leslie			6
Wagner, Miss		5	0
Wale, Esq., W. A.	1	1	0
Walker, The Misses Crompton	10	10	0
Walker, Miss E. P.	1	1	0
Walker, Miss N. C.	5	0	0
Walker, Mrs. W. H.	3	0	0
Ware, Mrs. W. L.	1	1	0
Waring, Miss E. M.	2	0	0
Watson, Mrs.	2	2	0
Webster, Ben, Esq.	5	0	0
Weddell, Esq., W.	10	0	0
Wells, Mrs.	1	0	0
Wells, Esq., H. B.	1	1	0
Weir, Miss Ada		5	0
White, Mrs.	2	0	0
White, Mrs. Cathcart	10	10	0
Whitefield, F. B.	2	2	0

	£	s.	d.
Whitehead, Mrs.	10	0	0
Whittingstate, Rev. H. O. F. ...		10	6
Wigam, Miss		5	0
Wigglesworth, Mrs.	2	2	0
Wills, Mr. & Mrs. Melville ...	25	0	0
Williams, Mrs.	5	0	0
Wilshire, Miss P. ?.		10	0
Wright, Miss	1	0	0
Wright, Mrs.	5	0	0
Wright, Mrs. Beresford	10	0	0
Wood, Miss		2	6
Wood, Mrs. J.	30	0	0
Wyld, Mrs.	1	1	0
Yarborough, The Countess ...	25	0	0
Yarborough, The Earl	25	0	0
Yates, Mrs. E. R.	1	1	0
Young, Esq., C.	5	0	0
	£23,368	19	1

The London Committee gratefully thank all subscribers to the Units. Further donations will be thankfully received by Lady Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 58, Victoria Street.

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	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to November 16th, 1916	139,863	10	6
Further donations received to November 21st:—			
*Proceeds Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour, Kilmarnock collection, per Miss Etta Shankland	51	14	11
Miss M. E. Biggs (Girton and Newnham Unit)	1	0	0
Miss Johnson	5	0	0
Miss Betty Pinker		10	0
*Giffnock Bowling Club, per Chas. Taylor, Esq., Sec., Glasgow Bowling Assoc. ...	5	0	0
*"Blackwater, Blairgowrie" ...	1	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: Lochgelly Co-op. Women's Guild, per Mrs. Millar and Mrs. Hunter, collected at dividend paying ...	11	0	0
*Dundee W.S.S., per Miss Macintyre, Hon. Treas., Vine Bank, Broughty Ferry: *Employees Messrs. Malcolm Ogilvie & Co., Ltd., Constable Works (£7 7s.), *Employees Messrs. Spalding & Valentine, Ltd. (Caledonian Works) (£7 0s. 3d.), Employees Messrs. Scott, Sons & Co. (N. Dudhope Works) (4s. 9½d.), (£14 12s. 0½d.) (result of Mrs. Sime's work), Mrs. Millar (£1 5s.), Miss Reoch (£5), E.L.H. (5s.), Sir J. and Lady Burnet (£4 4s.), *William Mackenzie, Esq. (£15), Mrs. Batchelor (£5), Messrs. A. Duncan & Co., Ltd. (£2), W. Frain, Esq. (£3 3s.), Proceeds of Concert by Miss Lilias Mackinnon, in Victoria Art Galleries (£9 1s. 5d.), Anon. (£2 5s.), Mrs. Walker (£5), Miss Thomson (£2), *Messrs. D. M. Brown and Staff (£25), Miss M. Balfour Ogilvie (£5)—(£98 15s. 5½d., less expenses £16 5s. 6d.) (£66 to be forwarded to the Hon. Treas., London Com. for S.W.H. for Dr. Elsie Inglis' X-Ray apparatus or for general fund of London Com.).	82	10	0
*Per Miss Bury: Proceeds of Meetings in Golspie, sale of tickets (£4 17s. 9d.), donations and collection from Children's Meeting (£3 3s.), Sale of tickets in Dingwall (£4 3s. 6d), Collection at Children's Meeting (17s.), Sale of tickets at Avoch (£4 17s. 9d.)	17	18	3
*Hull W.S.S. monthly collection, per Miss Hyde, Hon. Treas., Rosemount, The Park, Hull	2	3	10
*Per N.U.W.S.S., London: Mrs. M. M. Hermon (£3 3s.), Mrs. Smyth and Capt. H. H. Smyth, R.N. (Serbia) (£2 2s.), *Mrs. Warter Gandell (Roumanian Unit) (£5)	10	5	0
*Miss Marjory Lees, Pres., Oldham W.S.S., per Miss Mitton, Hon. Treas., for further 6 months of "Oldham S.W.S." bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Campbell, St. Gilbert's, Dornoch, for further 6 months of "Dornoch" bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*Per Miss Kathleen Burke: Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., New York	500	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£9 10s. 1d.), *Employees Messrs. P. & W. Anderson (£1 7s. 9d.)	10	17	10
*Mrs. Grundy	5	0	0
Miss Jardine		10	0
*Per Miss Dalby, Hon. Treas., Birkenhead W.S.S.: Monthly subs. (£3 3s. 6d.), Mrs. Pagan (10s.), Collected at Women's Guild, Highfield Mission (15s. 4d.)—towards "Birkenhead" bed (Royaumont)	4	8	10
*Per Miss Craigie: Further proceeds of Sale of Royaumont post-cards		2	6
*Per Miss Bury: Employees Messrs. Trotter & Sons ...	2	10	0
*Per Miss Mair: Miss McLaren (Roumania) (£5 5s.), *Miss Lumsden (£5), Miss Watson (£1)	11	5	0
*Per Miss Isabel P. Scott: Miss Scott	50	0	0
*Per Mrs. Tons: Proceeds of Lecture in Edmonton, Canada	1	4	8
*Per Miss Craigie: W. Cunningham, Esq., further Kossova Day contribution ...	5	0	0
Per Miss Finke, for London Units	1	0	0
*Sir R. Rowand Anderson ...	3	0	0
*Per Miss Macintyre, Hon. Treas., Dundee W.S.S.: Mrs. Bolton Smith, per Miss Mackenzie (Dr. Inglis' Unit, for Miss Henderson to use as she thinks best)	52	10	5
*Paisley W.S.S., per Miss Todd, Hon. Treas., for 2nd 6 months of "John Neilson Institution" bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*Alex. Cupples	2	0	0
*Edith Cavell X-Ray Car Tour—Ayr collection, per Miss Etta Shankland	28	19	11
Dumfries collection	16	19	0
Kilmacolm collection	14	11	0
Hamilton collection	14	12	11
Greenock, 2nd instalment ...	16	13	1
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* Denotes further donations.

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"Dornoch" (Royaumont) further 6 months	Per Mrs. Campbell, St. Gilbert's, Dornoch.
"John Neilson Institution" (Royaumont) further 6 months	Per Miss Todd, Hon. Treas., Paisley W.S.S.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, begs once more to thank all those who have helped, and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to help to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Mrs. Laurie would again bring before the notice of the many friends of the Hospitals the urgent need for further assistance. The demands upon our resources are very great at the present time. The severe fighting on the Serbian frontier will entail our Units being kept up to their full strength, and the additional beds at Abbaye de Royaumont and in the Girton and Newnham Unit mean much larger staffs required.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

London Society.

BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH BRANCH, L.S.W.S.—By the kindness of Mrs. John Hodge, a drawing-room meeting was held at Woodland Lodge, Shooter's Hill Road, on Tuesday, November 14th, by the Blackheath and Greenwich Branch of the London Society for Women Suffrage.

From the chair, Mrs. A. T. Davies introduced Miss Curwen, Organising Secretary for the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, who made an excellent and stirring speech on the work of the hospitals on the various fronts.

Miss Curwen closed with an urgent appeal for funds in order that Dr. Inglis's demands may be met.

A vote of thanks to Miss Curwen, proposed by Mrs. Lake and seconded by Miss Rose Crofton, was carried enthusiastically. Prior to the meeting a sale of home-made cakes was held, the proceeds, together with that of the collection, altogether £10 10s., going to the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

HIGHGATE.—In spite of an Arctic wind a very successful At Home was held on November 17th, at 3, Holly-terrace, by invitation of Mrs. Rand and Mrs. Harrington. Mrs. Garnett, the Chairman of the Branch, presided, and after a comprehensive survey of the Present Suffrage Position by Miss O'Malley, Miss Curwen made a brief speech concerning the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and then, to the unexpected pleasure of those present, introduced Miss Helen Monfries, who had just returned from Roumania for further equipment for the London Unit there nursing wounded Serbian soldiers. Miss Monfries' account of her experiences as Chauffeur-Interpreter to the Unit, the journey across Russia, the bombardment of Costanza, and the crossing of the bridge at Cernavoda just before its destruction by bombs from German aeroplanes, which had already damaged the railway line, was listened to with the deepest interest, and as a result of the appreciation and sympathy of the audience £6 was forwarded to the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

A very successful Jumble Sale was held in October, by the CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK SOCIETY, to provide funds for the Working Party which is held weekly in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (London Unit). The Sale resulted in a total of £13 11s. 11½d., in addition to which donations in money from various friends and members amounted to £1 18s. 6d. The Sale was most ably organised and carried through under Mrs. Brookes' capable management, who was loyally supported by all the members of the Committee and kind friends.

Cheltenham Poster Scheme.

It may interest readers to know how the Cheltenham poster scheme progresses, the only bit of pure propaganda that has gone steadily on here unaffected by the war. We began it in 1913, hiring a permanent board-space large enough to display a bill 6½ feet high by 2½, at a cost of 30s. a year. The difficulty of getting fresh and suitable posters was surmounted by one of our members undertaking to design and make them, thus reducing the cost to a few pence. The bills are changed about once in two months, unless a disaster such as a snowstorm or a militant Anti, intervenes and necessitates a new one sooner. At the outbreak of war we promptly enlarged the picture of nurse and soldier issued by the N.U., and put under it the words: "Women are asked to help in time of war. Why not let them help in time of peace *with their votes?*" Later came, "What we are doing. No. 1. We are helping hungry women at home." No. 2 was, "We are nursing wounded soldiers abroad," and both had appropriate illustrations, the latter with the name of the hospital units. When police supervision of soldiers' wives was attempted we adapted the "C.C." cartoon on that subject, with the same words underneath. This evidently gave great offence to some Anti, for the figure of the policeman was torn clean out, and afterwards the lettering was damaged, but this was repaired.

All the bills are the same size, but not all are pictorial. Sometimes the wording is too long to leave room for more, as when we protested vigorously against the threatened re-introduction of the C.D. Acts, winding up with a reference to Florence Nightingale as a believer in Women's Suffrage. More recently we have had a lengthy one about the conversion of a noted Anti, and his remark that "the women are splendid, and we men cannot *do without them*" (huge letters). We also used the postcard design of Woman kneeling before Justice and Prejudice dragging her away, with the legend: "Woman appeals to Justice for the vote. Only Prejudice denies." This was followed last spring by a reproduction of the *Punch* cartoon, "Pro Patria," with these words in large letters at the top, and below the pertinent comment: "While men fight abroad women plough at home. If those who fight may vote, why not those who plough?" At the approach of harvest we showed a woman binding a sheaf, with "Women land workers" scribbled small underneath, and above and below in big lettering the trenchant plea: "Don't let women be tricked again. Demand a Franchise Bill to include women, who are *helping to save the country*." Just now we are having put up the most complicated of all, as far as execution goes—a list of the twenty-nine equal Suffrage States or countries, with dates, headed "Women's votes granted" (an arresting announcement) and followed by—"England—when? NOW. Are Englishwomen less fit?" For our next we contemplate two pictures in one poster, thus—"After the war will it be this——?" (woman in bonds and John Bull appealing to her for help), "or this——?" (man and woman, hand in hand, facing the dawn.) But this has not yet materialised.

West Riding of Yorkshire.

BARNSLEY W.S.S.—On November 13th and 14th, Miss I. O. Ford paid a vist to Barnsley, and addressed three meetings which were most successful. On the 13th, speaking at the John Shaw Guild on "What Makes a Nation Great," she laid special stress on the need of the equality of the sexes, with equality of responsibility, an argument which was very warmly approved. On the 14th, a "Bring and Buy" Sale, to which members and friends were invited, was held at Fair Field House, when Miss Ford spoke on the "Present Position of Women's Enfranchisement." She dealt with the Conference in the House of Commons, and showed the importance of a watchful and active interest on the part of Suffragists, and urged members not only to keep up their organisation, but to increase their efforts at this moment. The great influx of women into the labour market made it absolutely essential that women should have the protection of the vote, otherwise their interests would be entirely neglected, and worse than forgotten. The proceeds of the Sale amounted to £8 0s. 7d.

By the invitation of Miss Wray, the Presidents and Secretaries of Trade Union branches of Barnsley met Miss Ford in the Y.M.C.A. In a very inspiring address she roused the enthusiasm of her audience, and all pledged themselves to bring a Women's Suffrage resolution before their branches, and to do their utmost to further our cause.

LEEDS.—On Wednesday, November 22nd, Mrs. Grosvenor Talbot (Hon. Sec. Leeds Society) gave a delightful musical party, and an excellent tea on proper war economy lines. The young musician, Miss K. F. Smith, gave her services. The programme was beautiful. The collection, which amounted to £16, was sent to the Scottish Women's Hospitals Fund. Several Trade Unions have sent up resolutions on Women's Suffrage.

East Grinstead W.S.S.

A Sale in aid of the N.U. Headquarter's Funds and Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont, was held on October 4th. Two large rooms in the beautiful old Sackville College were kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill, one for the various stalls and the other for tea. In the unavoidable absence of Lady Idina Wallace, Madame Mouravieff opened the Sale, and in a few gracious words expressed her sympathy with the work of the N.U. and S. W. Hospitals. The Sale Room was full, in spite of a soaking rain, and good business was done at the various stalls, which included jumble, jewellery, lavender, cake, aprons, flowers, and plants, Treasures and Produce Stalls. In addition, there was a small War Trophies Exhibition, and at the end of the evening an auction was held of the plants and produce still unsold. Tea, and a small charge of 2d. for entrance, brought in considerable sums, and, altogether, the Sale resulted in the satisfactory sum of £57 19s. 3½d. after a few expenses had been paid. Some donations of money, and gifts to the stalls, amounting to £7, were specially earmarked for Royaumont, so a cheque for

£32 9s. 8d. was sent to the Hospital, where the Society supports a bed, and £25 9s. 8d. to the N.U. The Society is most grateful to all those who helped so generously to make the Sale a success. As everything was not sold another small Sale will be held in the Society's Club Room, 29, London-road, on Wednesday afternoon, December 6th.

Bournemouth.

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 14th, and was well attended. After election of officers and business had been attended to, Mrs. Renton gave a most enlightening address on "The Present Political Situation" which was listened to with rapt attention. The following resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously: "That this Meeting most earnestly desires to impress upon the Government the injustice of introducing any form of Service Franchise from which women, who, both in the field and in the factory, have borne so large a share in National Defence, are excluded."

Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation.

WOKINGHAM.—A successful Jumble Sale was held on Saturday, November 11th, at Montague House, the proceeds amounting to £8 os. 3d., part of which will be sent to Headquarters as promised in answer to their appeal; part will be used to defray the expenses of the public meeting on the 29th, and the remainder will be devoted to the Prisoners' Parcel Fund.

PANGBOURNE.—The annual meeting was held on November 14th, at the Friends' Meeting House. Between thirty and forty members and others were present. The Hon. Secretary read a double set of reports and accounts, no annual meeting having been held in 1915, owing to the war. The reports and accounts were adopted, and the officers and committee re-elected. Owing to deaths and to the departure of some members, the membership of the Society has fallen from seventy in 1914 to fifty-five at the present time. An appeal was made for more members, and also for contributions to support the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Millicent Fawcett Units. A resolution was moved from the chair, urging the Government to include the enfranchisement of women in any measure of Franchise Reform presented to Parliament, and after being spoken to by Miss Margaret Jones, who explained the Parliamentary situation, and described some of the work undertaken by the National Union, it was put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.* Tea, and the enrolment of some new members, concluded the meeting, at which a collection of £1 2s. 6d. was taken for the hospital units.

Forthcoming Meetings.

DECEMBER 1.

Hastings—At 5, Havelock Road—Speakers: Miss Willis, Miss Sidney, Mrs. Arthur Strickland—Subject: Women's Work in the Church 5.0

Kennington—At 26, Binfield Road, Clapham Road—Speaker: Miss Emily Hill—Subject: "What Party Women Should be Doing"—Hostess: Mrs. Roberts 3.0

DECEMBER 4.

Birmingham—Yardly Mission—Speaker: Mrs. Knight 3.0

Birmingham—Small Heath Co-operative Guild 3.0

Birmingham—Holy Head Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Mrs. Guest 7.30

Camberley and District—Kingscleer, Camberley—Chair: Mrs. Alys Russell—Speaker: Mrs. Elborough—Work Among the Refugees in Russia 3.0

Hulme—Suffrage Club—Jumble Sale—Contributions should be sent to 16, Deansgate, Manchester.

Wellingborough—Drawing-room Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. T. Gravely, at Lotherside, Hatton Park—Speaker: Miss Maude Royden—Subject: Women's Share in the Reconstruction of the Nation

DECEMBER 5.

Rotherhithe—Social and Athletic Club, 86, Union Road—Speaker: Miss Horne—Subject: Women's War Service—Chair: Miss O. J. Dunlop, who will speak on The Parliamentary Position of Women at the Present Time 7.30

DECEMBER 6.

Ascot—Sale of Work, in aid of the Scottish Women Hospitals—French and Serbian Unit—Admission 6d. 2.30

Brighton—Sussex Pioneer Club, 4, New Road—Suffrage Meeting—Speakers: Mrs. Jervis and Mrs. Robie Uniacke 8.0

Bristol—Sale at Hamilton's Rooms, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.—Hay Box Demonstration, at 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 7.

Birmingham—All Saints Girls' Club 8.30

DECEMBER 8.

Brighton—Men's Co-operative Guild—Speaker: Mrs. Robie Uniacke, on Women Suffrage and the Political Situation

DECEMBER 9.

Cheltenham—In Bayshill Lecture Room—Sale to follow, for Women's Hospital Units—Speaker: Mrs. Saul Solomon 3.0

DECEMBER 11.

West Dulwich—Drawing-room Meeting, at 161, Croxted Road—Speaker; Mrs. C. Fisher—Subject: The Present Position of Women Suffrage—Chair: The Lady Frances Balfour 3.0

Members and friends are cordially invited to attend any of these meetings without special invitation.

Scottish Women's Hospital Meetings.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th, at Lecture Hall, Presbyterian Church, Cromwell Avenue, Highgate. Lantern lecture on Scottish Women's Hospitals, by Miss Curwen 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th, at 20, Talgarth Road, West Kensington. Chair: Lady Frances Balfour. Speaker: Miss Baugham, on Scottish Women's Hospitals 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th, at Knightsbridge Palace Hotel. Chair: Lady Cowdray. Speakers: Professor Popovic and Miss Curwen, on the Scottish Women's Hospitals 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, at Literary, Journalistic, and Secretarial Bureau. Speaker: Mrs. Mary Gaunt, on British Women in Serbia 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, at Star and Garter Rooms, 21, Old Bond Street. Chair: Lady Frances Balfour. Speaker: Mr. E. B. Stebbing (recently returned from the Serbian Front) 3 p.m.

Forthcoming Events.

The National Council of Women.

The annual meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Tottenham Court Road, on Thursday and Friday, December 7th and 8th, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. The resolutions to be discussed deal with:—

(1) The appointment of women police, who shall be properly trained, recognised, and paid.
(2) The need for electing women members to all local governing bodies.
(3) The need to form Women's Local Government Associations in districts where these do not exist already.
(4) That women be included in the Parliamentary Electorate of the United Kingdom, and thus be enabled to render greater service to the State.
(5) The total prohibition of the manufacture and common sale of alcoholic liquors during the war.
(6) The undesirability of closing the schools to children under five years, unless an adequate number of nursery schools are provided under trained and educated supervision.
(7) The necessity for encouraging Secondary Schools to give instruction to girls on the possibilities which the Overseas Dominions offer to women and girls.
(8) The need for women on Boards of Hospitals.
(9) The need for women inspectors, preferably trained nurses, to deal with and investigate cases of assaults on children.
(10) The need for establishing a special Nursery Service for Poor-Law Institutions.

A Women's Exhibition, arranged by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on December 7th, 8th, and 9th, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. The exhibits will include Mothercraft, Sweated Industries, Food Prices, a Photographic Exhibition, two Competitions, and a Pageant. There will also be a Concert. Three-day tickets, 2s.

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40	2 3	6 3	12 0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FANCY FAIR, to enable the New Constitutional Society to continue its war work, will be opened by Miss Lena Ashwell, on Tuesday, December 5th, 2.30 p.m., at 27, Hereford-sq., S.W. (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kerr). Musical and Dramatic Entertainments. The following artistes have generously promised their services: Lady Forbes-Robertson, Louise Perceval Clark, Susan Strong, Wladimir Cernikoff "A War Committee," by Edward Knoblock. Inez Bensusan, Nina Boucicault, Faith Celli, Decima Moore, Edyth Olive, Edith Pither, Nancy Price, Amy Ravenscroft, Marguerite Scialtiel, Agnes Thomas, Ben Webster. Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 5s., from the Secretary, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W. Admission free.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. December 6th, 7.30 p.m. House Dinner. "The Advantages of Careless Parents," by Mr. Arthur J. Lewis. Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Fisher.

BIRTHS.

NOVEMBER 16th.—To Rachel and Oliver Strachey, at 96, South Hill Park, Hampstead, a son.

MARRIAGES.

THOMPSON—COLSON.—On November 14th, at St. Giles's Church, Cambridge, the Rev. T. Thompson, B.D., to Cicely Frances Colson.

PERSONAL.

TWO LADIES wish to join house party for Christmas holidays as paying guests. References given.—Write Box 5,005, COMMON CAUSE Office.

UPRIGHT Grand Piano housed and tuned in return for use; no children or soldiers; references.—Andrews, 283, Willesden-lane, N.W.

HELP WANTED.

WILL LADY ADOPT fine healthy boy, eight months old? Refined mother; very unfortunate circumstances. Child will be quite surrendered. Full particulars given on application to Box 6,350, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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[Continued on page 444.

Continued from page 443.]

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TO LET.—Studio, in garden, suit musician or painter; non-residential; £40 yearly, including rates, taxes.—Apply 37, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea.

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WANTED.

LADY working in N. London wants large light room or studio, if possible furnished as self-contained flat, with bathroom; bed-sitting-room in flat of lady-worker might suit if no other boarder received. Neighbourhood of Regent's Park, or Hampstead if near tube stations. References given and required.—Box 6,354, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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